

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06727 081743Z

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 DODE-00 /026 W

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R 081545Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7354

ERDA HQS GERMANTOWN MD

ERDA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BELGIAN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER FERNAND
HERMAN TO THE U.S..

REF: BRUSSELS 5570, STATE 157721

1. WE SHARED THE SUBSTANCE OF STATE 157721 WITH VANDENPLAS
OF MINISTER HERMAN'S STAFF, WHO WAS HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE.
AFTER DISCUSSION WITH HERMAN, VANDENPLAS HAS GIVEN US ADDI-
TIONAL DETAILS OF HERMAN'S (STILL TENTATIVE) PLANS:

--HERMAN WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND TWO OR THREE
MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF;

-- MR. AND MRS. HERMAN WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE BRUSSELS ON
AUGUST 29 AND REMAIN IN THE U.S. UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12. THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION MIGHT REMAIN IN THE U.S. A WEEK
OR TWO LONGER, AND WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING THEIR
PROGRAM FOR THAT PERIOD;

-- MINISTER HERMAN'S PRIMARY INTEREST WILL BE THE ERDA
PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY ERDA ACTIVITIES FOR PROMPTING EFFICIENT
ENERGY USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.
THE LATTER WOULD INCLUDE BREEDER REACTORS AND FUSION, WHICH
MAY BE COVERED IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR PROSPECTS
AND POSSIBILITIES WITH ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITIES;

-- THE MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH US OFFICIALS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE F-16 PROGRAM, AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT
AN AIRPLANE CONSTRUCTION PLANT. IF TIME PERMITS, HE WOULD

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06727 081743Z

LIKE TO DISCUSS GENERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TOPICS WITH APPRO-

PRIATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS.

2. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO VANDENPLAS THAT MINISTER SHOULD
CONSIDER MAKING USE OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON BEFORE
MUCH LONGER FOR COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE ON ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THIS TRIP.

3. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING FINAL SUGGESTED SCHEDULE
AND AGENDA FOR ERDA PORTION OF VISIT, AS PROMISED IN REFTEL.
AS WE STATED IN BRUSSELS 5570, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MINISTER
HERMAN MIGHT BE EXPLICITLY INVITED TO VISIT ERDA FACILITIES
BY ADMINISTRATOR SEAMANS.FIRESTONE

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